

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 242627

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ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 SSO-00 NEA-06 L-01 SP-02

PRS-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 EA-06

AF-04 ARA-06 CU-02 RSC-01 /065 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:XVUNOVIC:JBS
APPROVED BY IO:ROBLAKE
NEA/IAI:WCLUVERIUS

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O 042351Z NOV 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 242627

LIMDIS, NESCO, ROME FOR ATHERTON AND MOREY

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO
SUBJECT: UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE: ARAB RESOLUTION
PROPOSING SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL

REF: (A) PARIS 25971 (EXDIS); (B) PARIS 25972;
(C) PARIS 25973

1. REFTELS DESCRIBE ASSESSMENT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR IO, DR. MOREY, AND US DEL OF CURRENT SITUATION SURROUNDING A DRAFT RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY ARABS AND SEVERAL NON-ALIGNED UNESCO DELEGATIONS WHICH CALLS FOR UNESCO TO SUSPEND ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL UNTIL ISRAEL RESPECTS RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED WITHIN UN ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNING JERUSALEM.

2. DEPARTMENT ENCOURAGED BY EFFORTS OF LATIN AMERICANS, OTHER FRIENDLY DELS AND UNESCO SECRETARIAT TO DELETE
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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 242627

SANCTIONS LANGUAGE AND SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE MORE ACCEPTABLE

TO ISRAEL. ISRAELI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS TELEPHONED NEA SEVERAL TIMES TODAY TO URGE US TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO HAVE SANCTIONS LANGUAGE REMOVED. HOWEVER, WE NOTE WITH CONCERN REPORT IN REFTEL A THAT ISRAELI UNESCO DEL APPEARS RESIGNED TO DEFEAT ON SANCTIONS ISSUE AND IS NOT PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY IN EFFORTS TO MODERATE RESOLUTION.

3. WE CONCUR IN VALUE OF UNESCO DG-DESIGNATE M'BOW'S SUGGESTION THAT ISRAEL SHOULD MAKE CONCILIATORY GESTURE TO PLACATE AND RECOGNIZE INTENSITY OF ARAB/MOSLEM SENTIMENTS RE MUSLIM HOLY SITES IN JERUSALEM. WE BELIEVE SUCH A GESTURE WILL HAVE BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON ISRAEL'S CASE IN UNESCO. THEREFORE REQUEST EMBASSY MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS WITH GOI AT APPROPRIATE SENIOR LEVEL:

-- US TOGETHER WITH OTHER FRIENDLY DELEGATIONS MAKING EVERY EFFORT IN UNESCO AND IN CAPITALS TO REMOVE SANCTIONS LANGUAGE FROM RESOLUTION ON JERUSALEM. WE CONCERNED THAT ISRAELI DELEGATION APPEARS NOT TO BE EXERTING MAJOR EFFORTS IN PARIS IN ITS OWN BEHALF AND URGE GOI TO INSTRUCT ITS DELEGATION IN UNESCO TO INTENSIFY ITS EFFORTS.

-- WE URGE ISRAEL TO ACQUIESCE IN INCLUSION SUCH COMPROMISE LANGUAGE SUGGESTED BY LA'S AND WEO'S (REFTEL C) WHICH WE BELIEVE IS THE BEST ATTAINABLE AND PRESENTS BEST CHANCE OF AVOIDING SANCTIONS.

-- IN ORDER TO GIVE COMPROMISE AMENDMENT BEST POSSIBLE CHANCE FOR OBTAINING MAXIMUM SUPPORT, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR ISRAEL TO MAKE STATEMENT WHICH WILL ALLEVIATE CONCERNS OF LARGE NUMBER UNESCO MEMBERS. IT COULD INCLUDE STATEMENT THAT GOI WOULD ACCEDE TO PRESENCE OF A PERMANENT SPECIAL TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DG IN JERUSALEM WHO WOULD HAVE THE AUTHORITY, AND COMPETENCE, TO OBSERVE AND REPORT ON THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS PROPERTY IN JERUSALEM. WE BELIEVE SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO ENCOURAGE SPONSORS TO DROP SANCTIONS LANGUAGE.

SECRET

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PAGE 03 STATE 242627

FYI: ISRAELI EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS INFORMED DEPT THAT GOI HAS IN PAST AND WOULD AGAIN RECEIVE TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED--THAT IS, ARCHAEOLOGICALLY COMPETENT--UNESCO MISSION. ONLY NEW ISRAELI CONCESSION WOULD BE PERMANENT STATUS OF SUCH REPRESENTATIVE. END FYI.

4. USDEL UNESCO MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS FOR ELEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN SUCH A STATEMENT.

PLEASE GIVE DEPT (AND EMBASSY TEL AVIV) ANY SUCH
SUGGESTIONS BY IMMEDIATE TEL, AND WE WILL INSTRUCT
EMBASSY TEL AVIV SOONEST. INGERSOLL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PROPERTY, SANCTIONS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE242627
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: XVUNOVIC:JBS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740316-0375
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741172/aaaacjju.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: (A) PARIS 25971 (EXDIS); (B) PARIS 2, 5972;
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE: ARAB RESOLUTION PROPOSING SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL
TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO
To: TEL AVIV PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005